

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 IGA-02 PC-10 USIE-00

NSCE-00 DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SWF-02 PA-04

PRS-01 SS-20 NSC-10 SAM-01 FDRE-00 DRC-01 SSO-00

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O P 121225Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7481

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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AFDROUGHT

BRUSSELS FOR MARTIN

MONROVIA FOR BROWN

PARIS FOR HELMAN

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: GRAIN TRANSPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS IN CHAD

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REF: A) STATE 24994; B) STATE 25595

1. SUMMARY: WITH FIVE MONTHS OF DRY SEASON ALREADY PAST CHAD IS FAR FROM ACCOMPLISHING DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AS PROJECTED FAO MULTI-DONOR REPORT. PROBLEM RESULTS FROM SLOWER-THAN-EXPECTED ARRIVALS IN PORTS DURING DEC AND JAN, INSUFFICIENT FUNDS TO PAY INTERNAL TRANSPORT, AND WEAKNESS OF DROUGHT RELIEF ADMINISTRATION. GOC BELIEVES THAT AFTER ALL PRESENT SOURCES OF REVENUE HAVE BEEN TAPPED IT IS STILL 25 MILLION CFA SHORT OF FUNDS FOR DELIVERY OF MINIMUM ESSENTIAL QUANTITY FOR SURVIVAL. DROUGHT COORDINATOR DJONOUMA AND HIS STAFF ARE FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT WITH THIS ADDITIONAL SUM OF CASH AVAILABLE FOR PAYMENT TRANSPORT COSTS MINIMUM GOAL CAN BE OBTAINED. END SUMMARY.

2. DONOR COMMITMENTS TO CHAD HAVE FULFILLED GOC REQUESTS FOR PERIOD PRIOR TO NEXT RAINY SEASON. SITUATION REPORT FEB 9 SHOWED 54,000 TONS OF GRAIN AND FORTIFIED FOODS STILL COMMITTED TO CHAD. THERE ARE ALSO 4,500 TONS IN STOCK IN N'DJAMENA. GOC MINIMUM GOAL IS DISTRIBUTION 30,000 TONS TO AFFECTED AREAS BEFORE ONSET RAINS. REMAINDER TO BE SOLD N'DJAMENA OR DELAYED UNTIL AFTER RAINY SEASON. RATE OF DISTRIBUTION SINCE BEGINNING OF DRY SEASON LAST SEPT HAS BEEN, HOWEVER, ONLY ABOUT 3,500 TONS PER MONTH. CONTINUATION THIS RATE OF DISTRIBUTION THROUGH REMAINING FIVE MONTHS DRY SEASON MEANS THAT ONLY 17,500 MORE CAN BE DISTRIBUTED. SLOW DISTRIBUTION HAS BEEN CAUSED LARGELY BY INSUFFICIENT FUNDS. SALES ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS THAT FOR 3,000 TONS U.S. SORGHUM AND FOR NEXT 20,000 TONS PROVIDE MUCH APPRECIATED REVENUE WHICH HELPS TO PAY SHIPPING COSTS, BUT BECAUSE OPERATION IS ON HAND-TO-MOUTH BASIS, SALES MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE CONTRACTS CAN BE LET TO TRUCKERS FOR DISTRIBUTION.

3. COMPLICATING FACTOR IS APPROACH OF COTTON EXPORT SEASON. IT MAY BE RECALLED THAT LAST YEAR PRESIDENT, JUST BEFORE LEAVING ON THREE-WEEK TRIP TO NEAR EAST, ORDERED THAT PRIORITY BE GIVEN TO COTTON EXPORTS OVER ALL OTHER FORMS OF TRANSPORT ACTIVITY WITH THE RESULT THAT RELIEF OPERATIONS WERE SEVERLY AFFECTED. IN SPITE OF INCREASED SENSITIVITY TO DROUGHT SITUATION THIS YEAR AND AWARENESS THAT INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON DROUGHT PROBLEMS, GOC IS EXPECTED TO GIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRIORITY AGAIN THIS YEAR TO COTTON EXPORTS SINCE COTTON IS ONLY EXPORT ACTIVITY OF ANY CONSEQUENCE TO THIS COUNTRY.

4. GOC RESOURCES TO APPLY TO DISTRIBUTION INCLUDE FED GRANT TO PAY TRANSPORT 6,000 TONS AND FAC FOR 5,000 TONS. IN EXPECTATION OF 15 PERCENT INCREASE IN TRANSPORT COSTS, SALE OF 10,000 TONS U.S. SORGHUM WILL PRODUCE ONLY ENOUGH REVENUE TO PAY TRANSPORT 8,700 TONS. THIS LEAVES 10,300 TONS OF 30,000 TON

MINIMUM GOAL FOR WHICH NO FUNDS WILL BE AVAILABLE. AT NEW
HIGH TRANSPORT RATE BEING CONTEMPLATED OF 23,000 CFA PER
TON, WE GET APPROXIMATELY 236 MILLION CFA SHORTFALL.
TO THIS GOC WILL APPLY 11 MILLION CFA FROM SPECIAL DROUGHT
ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED WITH DONATIONS FROM AFRICAN AND ARAB
NEIGHBORS, LEAVING 225 MILLION CFA TO BE FOUND IF 30,000-TON
GOAL IS TO BE MET. WHILE NO ONE CAN PREDICT WHETHER COTTON
EXPORT ACTIVITY WILL REDUCE AVAILABLE TRUCKING CAPACITY SO THAT
GOAL CANNOT BE MET, IT IS CERTAIN THAT WITHOUT THESE EXTRA
FUNDS THERE WILL BE FAILURE TO ACHIEVE WVEN THIS MINIMAL DISTRI-
BUTION.

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5. FOREGOING ARE MOST IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS FACING CHAD, BUT THERE ARE OTHERS WHICH COULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES. COUNTRY IS ALREADY FEELING FUEL SHORTAGES. IN POPULOUS SOUTHERN AREA THERE IS NO GASOLINE TO BE HAD AT ANY COST. TRUCKERS AND AUTOMOBILE OWNERS ARE STOCKING EXTRA FUEL SUPPLIES IN ANTICIPATION OF SHORTAGES AND SERVICE STATIONS ARE BEGINNING TO TURN AWAY CUSTOMERS. STORAGE CAPACITY IS ANOTHER PROBLEM. IDA, FED AND OURSELVES HAVE PROMISED FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STORAGE FACILITIES BUT IT IS SAD COMMENTARY ON SPEEDINESS OF OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPONSES THAT FIVE MONTHS AFTER RAINS HAVE CEASED NO CONSTRUCTION IS YET UNDERWAY. GOC EXPECTS, HOWEVER, TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES N'DJAMENA AND CERTAIN PREFECTURAL CAPITALS FOR NEW STORAGE CAPACITY OF FROM 4,000 TO 6,000 TONS BEFORE RAINS BEGIN.

6. IN SPECIFIC RESPONSE TO SEVERAL REMAINING POINTS RAISED PARA 3 REF A, PORT AND RAILROAD FACILITIES DID NOT CONSTITUTE BOTTLENECK LAST YEAR AND ARE NOT EXPECTED TO DO SO THIS YEAR IF INTELLIGENT PLANNING IS MADE FOR USE OF DOUALA TO SUPPLEMENT NIGERIAN PORT AND RAILROAD CAPACITIES. MOVEMENTS BY ROAD FROM RAILHEADS TO DISTRIBUTION POINTS IN CHAD POSE NO PROBLEM AND TRUCKING CAPACITY IS ADEQUATE IF GOC WILL ABANDON ITS POLICY OF GIVING COTTON EXPORT FIRST PRIORITY. CHAD HAS RECEIVED THREE SIX-TON BERLIET TRUCKS AND TEN FIVE-TON UNIMOGS FROM GERMANY AND IS EXPECTING FIVE TWELVE-TON TRUCKS FROM FAO WHICH WE UNDERSTAND WERE MADE AVAILABLE BY CANADA. LIKE LAST YEAR, STORIES ARE CURRENT THAT SOMETHING LIKE 130 NEW FIAT TRUCKS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO CHAD UNDER A COMMERCIAL VENTURE, BUT WE DO NOT EXPECT THIS TO OCCUR THIS YEAR ANY MORE THAN WE DID LAST. IDA HAS MADE 117 MILLION CFA AVAILABLE FOR STORAGE CONSTRUCTION, FED 180 MILLION, AND OUR R/R PROGRAM INCLUDES ABOUT 90 MILLION. ALL THREE DONORS WILL BE FINANCING STORAGE FACILITIES OF STANDARD DESIGN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

7. ONE OF GREATEST WEAKNESSES IS ADMINISTRATION OF DROUGHT RELIEF OPERATIONS ALL THE WAY FROM STATEMENT OF NEEDS, AND APPROACHES TO POSSIBLE DONORS, THROUGH USES AVAILABLE FUNDS, ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIORITIES AND FINAL ACCOUNTING. TO THIS DAY MINISTER DJONOUA HAS NO ASSISTANT WHO CAN ACT ON BEHALF OF OR IN THE NAME OF INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON DROUGHT RELIEF WHICH HE HIMSELF HEADS. EVERY QUESTION OF SUBSTANCE MUST BE DISCUSSED WITH DJONOUA, AND HIS OFFHAND MANNER OF REPLYING TO QUESTIONS, ESPECIALLY IN PROVIDING SPECIFIC DETAILS, MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR DONORS AND EVEN FOR THE ESPATRIATE STAFF HANDLING TRANSPORT CONTRACTS TO

DO EFFECTIVE PLANNING. FYI ONLY. FOR EXAMPLE, WE ESTIMATE THAT CHAD HAS RECEIVED SOME 360 MILLION CFA AS GIFTS FROM AFRICAN AND ARAB NEIGHBORS FOR APPLICATION TO DROUGHT RELIEF. WHILE WE CAN IDENTIFY SOME EXPENDITURES, MANY OF WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CANNOT REMOTELY BE CONSIDERED TO BE RELATED TO THE DROUGHT, WE HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH, IF ANY, OF THAT 360 MILLION CFA IS STILL AVAILABLE TO THE GOC. END FYI. DJONOUA DOES NOT SURRENDER DECISION-MAKING PREROGATIVES TO ANY SUBORDINATES. IN FACT, HE SPECIFICALLY FORBIDS THEIR MAKING DECISIONS WHICH HE CONSIDERS HIS OWN RESORT. FOR THIS REASON WE HAVE SINCE LAST SUMMER BEEN WITHOUT THE FAO TECHNICIAN WHO HEADED THE DROUGHT RELIEF OPERATIONS. YVES PAGES, SECONDED TO DJONOUA'S OFFICE BY THE ILO FOR COORDINATION OF DROUGHT RELIEF OPERATIONS, WAS DECLARED PNG UNEXPECTEDLY DURING HIS ABSENCE FROM CHAD ON HOME LEAVE AND THE ONLY EXPLANATION GIVEN BY DJONOUA WAS THAT PAGES HAD TAKEN DECISIONS WHICH RIGHTLY BELONGED TO THE MINISTER. FAO HAS BEEN UNABLE TO REPLACE THIS ABLE AND DYNAMIC TECHNICIAN BUT IS NOW EXPECTING AN AMERICAN TO MOVE INTO THIS SPOT. IT OCCURS TO US, AS IT WILL TO GOC, THAT IT WILL BE SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT TO DISMISS AN AMERICAN FROM THIS POSITION THAN IT WAS A FRENCHMAN. IF THE NEW MAN PROVES TO BE EFFECTIVE WE WILL TRY TO REINFORCE THIS IMPRESSION IN GOC CIRCLES.

8. CONCLUSION: ALTHOUGH PREOCCUPATION WITH THE DROUGHT AND RELIEF OF ITS MOST SERIOUS EFFECTS IS OF MUCH HIGHER PRIORITY THIS

YEAR THAN LAST AND HAS RECEIVED ATTENTION FROM PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE HIMSELF, CHAD HAS IN LAST YEAR UNDERGONE SOME RATHER SEVERE INTERNAL STRESSES AND STRAINS AND ATTENTION IS LARGELY FOCUSED ON INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, ON ENTRY INTO LIMELIGHT OF OPPOSITION FIGURES LIKE TOURA GABA, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO GERMANY WHO HAS ANNOUNCED ACTIVE OPPOSITION TO TOMBALBAYE FROM ABROAD, AND ON THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ASPECTS OF CHAD'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND AUTHENTICITY CAMPAIGN. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES, INCLUDING TIME AVAILABLE BY HIGH LEVEL GOC OFFICIALS TO CONCENTRATE ON DROUGHT PROBLEMS, CHAD HAS BEEN DOING ABOUT THE BEST IT CAN TO DEFINE ITS NEEDS, TO OBTAIN COMMITMENTS FROM DONORS AND TO GET FOOD TO THOSE WHO NEED IT. WE CANNOT EXPECT MUCH MORE.

MULCAHY

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